

Sea Turtle Volunteer Program

Share the Beach



Newsletter of the USFWS Daphne Field Office

<http://daphne.fws.gov>



Volunteers at June 13th Meeting, USFWS

Just a Reminder

- Remember to send in your Volunteer Agreements if you haven't done so already.
- Visit our web site for Hatchling Training Information.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday **July 11th**, 6:30 PM at Gulf State Park Resort Hotel so mark your calendars!

Contact Us:

1-866-SEA-TURTLE, x 41
or
251-441-5181, x 41

Share the Beach Newsletter

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The Share the Beach newsletter is published by the Daphne Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Drawer 1190, Daphne, AL 36526. Tel. 251-441-5181. Fax 251-441-6222. Web site: <http://daphne.fws.gov>.

Share the Beach Update

Thanks to everyone who came to Thursday's meeting. During that meeting we went over the guidelines for nest sitting and dealing with hatchlings. Since we had a smaller turnout than expected, we realize that most of you missed out on that training. Therefore we have created a web site which reviews the meeting's key points and outlines what should be done when a nest is about to hatch. To access this site, go to www.daphne.fws.gov and click onto the Sea Turtle page. Then click on the Sea Turtle Volunteer Program icon. This should bring you to the Hatchling Training Update page. To access this page directly, the address is www.daphne.fws.gov/Share_the_Beach/stvp.htm.

We are attempting to move from mailing out newsletters to sending them via email. Please forward your email address to celeste_y_south@fws.gov or call us at the office within the next week. If you do not have access to the internet or we haven't received your email address, you will continue to get the newsletter through the mail.

A recent article in the Mobile Register ("Fewer sea turtles nest in the Panhandle, June 12) explained that only four nests have been found on the beaches along the FL Panhandle and six turtles have washed up dead there. For them, this is the worst season in five years. But don't panic! In comparing our nest numbers this season to last years, things are looking pretty good. This season we have a total of 25 nests. Last season at this time we had 15 nests. The increase this year has a lot to do with the greater number of volunteers and the inclusion of the Fort Morgan area. So even though your team may have only found one nest, don't give up hope. We are still at the start of the season and expect to see females on the beach laying eggs even into the beginning of August.

Check out our new logo:



Visit our new web site for the latest information:

<http://daphne.fws.gov>



Nest Update

Bon Secour/Ft. Morgan: 13 nests

Orange Beach: 2 nests

Laguna Key: 2 nests

Ono Island: 5 nests

West Beach #1: 1 nest

Gulf State Park: 3 nests

Notes

Any volunteers that are not assigned to a team or would like to do more beach patrolling please let us know. The Orange Beach team is in need of more volunteers and your help is greatly appreciated.